

I'm an English teacher, a singer-songwriter, freelance journalist, and musician. I worked in radio and community radio as a deejay in the 1970s and later, cable television - public access, and CNN, when it began.

I've begun looking for a publishers and artists for my songs. I recently moved to Nashville as a step in getting serious about it! I also co-founded a non-profit in Georgia, the Chattahoochee Folk Music Society and worked there to promote local musicians.

There's a singer-songwriter show on the WLPN? the local PBS radio affiliate, once a week, plus some syndicated shows there. I hear "Progressive rock" which includes some Americana, on Lightning 100 FM; Lightning also broadcasts live music from clubs a couple of times a week. I hear live broadcasts of the Grand Old Opry which is national talent but many are "local" to where I live, Nashville, on WSM AM.

In the town I moved from, Columbus, Georgia, we had a choice of classic rock and roll, done-to-death, or pop or mainstream country. Totally Homogenized music. I rarely listened.

I feel there's a lot of room for other styles of music over the air; I fear that stations are "paid to play" and no matter how good a song is, it won't receive airplay without major money pushes, even if it arrives at a station and deejays and community like it; I fear the monopolization of the airwaves.

I think Nashville is lucky to have the few offerings on the air of local music that it does have; but things could be even better. I don't see much radio presence at community events.

It would be great for stations to have incentives for promoting local artists. It could revive live music for all those musicians out there with not much encouragement, just the love of the art, who keep creating and kicking.

While it's great community goodwill, participation in events of course should help a station in license renewal efforts. It's too bad community talk-shows, etc. were taken out of the renewal mix in the deregulation of the late 70's, 80's.

You would not believe this, I couldn't believe my ears myself. As a high school English teacher, I called several radio stations in Columbus, Georgia to ask for a speaker for my Drama Class, to address us on creating commercials, different voice techniques, etc. Most of the stations refused. One station finally sent a part timer, a young woman. She seemed totally untrained in ethics. She told my classes that the best part of her job was being able to trade free cds, prizes and other perks for anything she needed, rent, car repair, etc. !!! She seemed unaware that anything was wrong with this.

I am told pointblank that supplying stations with cds and pr materials will not get any airplay; they must come from companies that supply additional freebies for personnel; airplay is linked to artist appearances; i.e. "if you don't play this record, so and so who's also on the label will never come to your events again."

Also stations that report to charts take very seriously the fact that they

should not play anything not nationally available and showing up on everybody else's chart. I really wonder who can "break" a record or new artist anymore...?

WOW this front and back announcing issue explains why I NEVER seem to hear an artist's name unless i already know it...no idea this was going on. This used to be part of being a good disc jockey. By the way, stations don't tell call letters or locations much anymore either.

I'd like to see these low power licenses available so more choices are available on the air. Even better, let these stations prove themselves community based and take back some higher power!

Thanks for listening! Tune in often!